P810130-1185

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC
ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

8127663 749

S

ACTION
is assigned to
NEA

September 17, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY PSchmelzer DATE 4/10/87
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, let me express my gratitude for your invitation to the White House last Monday to discuss the proposed arms sale to Saudi Arabia. I am accepting your offer that the dialogue concerning this sale continue with both concerns and suggestions being expressed in a constructive manner.

I would like to urge, again, suggestions first raised in my letter to you in June (copy enclosed) that we seek a secure arrangement under which the aircraft and the services of our personnel be supplied to the Saudi government. This type of arrangement would supply the information necessary to provide for the legitimate security interest of the host country while, at the same time, securing our technology and the concerns of our allies.

The Administration should seek a modification of the agreement. In that the delivery of the aircraft takes place five years after Congressional approval, the burden of necessary assurances increases because we are committing ourselves to a set of unforeseen circumstances in a world of rapidly changing events. Because of this delay and the concerns of our allies, in addition to the need to have our technology secured, an American presence is necessary if approval is to be given by the Congress.

I believe the basis of concern expressed by many present at the Monday meeting was that there be a secure "American handle" on this equipment. The current proposal does not demonstrate the degree of control necessary to conclude that we have properly secured this important piece of technology. By American presence I mean that maintenance crews, pilots, flight technicians, ground technicians, and ground security be American personnel.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1981 SEP 17 PM 4:
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

From: Mack Mattingly

If the Saudis have genuine security interests that demand the type of information this aircraft can produce, then certainly they should be more concerned with obtaining the information than the manner in which they acquire it.

In expressing my concerns, let me add that I am most willing for the dialogue to continue, and I assure you that I will not be a part of any effort to foreclose your opportunity to present your proposal.

I remain grateful to you for the continuing opportunity to discuss this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Mathias

June 8, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I want to share with you some of my thoughts on the proposed sale of the AWAC aircraft to Saudi Arabia, concerning how to counteract the "offensive weapon" criticism being used by those who oppose the sale.

Briefly: (1) In lieu of an outright sale, the United States should lease the aircraft to Saudi Arabia over a specified period of time; (2) the contract would require that the aircraft be manned and maintained by American personnel; and (3) the lease would include depreciation, personnel, etc., in the contract.

This approach would (a) mitigate both the criticisms that the Saudis could use the AWAC as an offensive weapon against the State of Israel; (b) insure that sensitive data and technology contained in AWAC would not fall into hostile hands; and (c) insure that only defensive data be given to Saudi Arabia.

I would appreciate hearing from you and your advisors on this approach. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance in the furtherance of your foreign policy with which I agree, please call.

Sincerely,

Mark Hatfield

MH:lt

cc: Honorable Howard Baker
Honorable Alexander Haig
Mr. James Baker, III
Mr. Powell Moore
Mr. Richard Allen